

Office of Planning and Partnerships Staff

Kathleen Matthews, MPH Director of the Office of Planning and Partnerships at the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment and Colorado Public Health Association Board Member-Education Co-Chair. Prior to this she was assistant director and planning coordinator for the Colorado School of Public Health Initiative. Her twenty-nine years of public health experience has been in numerous areas (HIV/AIDS, injury prevention, heart health, college health, immunizations) and settings (local and state health departments, a federal agency, and community-based non-profits). She was director of the Masters of Public Health and Masters of Healthcare Systems programs at the University of Denver, and taught courses in community and behavioral health. Other positions have included public health consultant for the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration Region VIII, Director of Health Education at the University of Minnesota, Director of Education for the Minnesota AIDS Project, and planner for the Hennepin County Health Department. She received her Masters of Public Health from the University Of Minnesota School Of Public Health.

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Kathy Brown, Public Health Nurse Consultant has been working for the Office of Planning and Partnerships at Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment since July 2007. She provides consultative services to the South, South Central, and San Luis Valley regions. Kathy has many years of varied nursing experience at staff and management level, nursing instruction, legal nurse consulting, and indirect and direct public health experience. She has experience in development and management with program and curriculum, evaluation, conflict resolution, recruitment and retention processes, legislative processes, collaborative stakeholder project work, quality improvement, accreditation system preparation, and group process strategies. She has taught nurses and doctors in North Vietnam through the Friendship Bridge Project in 2000. Kathy received her LPN degree in 1973, Associate degree (RN) in nursing in 1987, Bachelor of Nursing degree in 1991 from University of Phoenix, Master's degree in Nursing and advanced practice nursing degree in women's health from University of Colorado in 1995, and Master's in Education with community counseling emphasis in 2004 from Colorado State University. Kathy has graduated from the Colorado State University Bighorn Leadership Institute in 2008 and was a Nightingale award state finalist in 2003. She also has lived in very rural Huerfano County for over 34 years.

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Terry Bryant, Public Health Planner, has been working at Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment since 2003. He has experience working across many program areas, including diabetes, physical activity and nutrition, and communicable disease. Terry received a Bachelor of Science in Mathematics from the University of New Mexico in 1995, and a Master of Science in Biostatistics from the University of California-Los Angeles in 1996. Terry gained experience working collaboratively with local public health while serving as Program Evaluator on the Steps to a Healthier Colorado Cooperative Agreement. Terry also brings experience with quality improvement strategies, having worked for several years in a CMS continuous quality improvement organization. Prior to his employment at the department, Terry worked as a Health Planner at Boulder County Public Health. Terry joined the Office of Planning and Partnerships at its inception in January, 2009.

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Tsering K. Dorjee, a Public Health Nurse Consultant with Office of Planning and Partnerships, brings experience in health based program development, implementation and evaluation. Hired in April of 2009, she has worked as a public health nurse for the Boston Public Health Commission and the Baltimore City Health Department. Tsering is board certified as an Advanced Practice Registered Nurse in Public Health Nursing. She will work closely with the Public Health Act by assisting counties in eastern region of Colorado to develop their local health agencies and public health plans. Tsering graduated from Johns Hopkins University with a Master of Public Health and Master of Science in Nursing in 2005. She completed her Bachelor of Science in nursing from Creighton University in 1998.

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Corrina Lucero, Public Health Planner of the Office of Planning and Partnerships, brings a health promotion background along with working knowledge of the community based organizations that are engaged in public health. Hired in February of 2009, she has worked for the Office of Health Disparities within the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment where her jobs have included Contract Monitoring in the grants program and Program Coordinating. Corrina will work closely with the Public Health Act by communicating processes and opportunities to stakeholders regarding the statewide public health improvement plan. Corrina graduated from University of Northern Colorado with a Master of Public Health in 2007 and a Bachelor of Science emphasizing in health promotion in 2005.

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Katy Rice has been the Office of Planning and Partnerships Program Assistant since August 2008. She has been at Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment since 2004 and worked previously in the Survey Research Unit. She has a Bachelor of Arts in Social Work from Eastern Michigan University.

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Jill Hunsaker Ryan, MPH, has worked part time with the Office of Planning and Partnerships since May 2009. For nearly five years, Jill was the director of the Eagle County Public Health Agency. Prior to that time, Jill spent seven years at the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment and held such positions as Director of the Turning Point Initiative, (the state's last planning initiative) and Director of the Office of Health Disparities. Jill began her public health career at the Jefferson County Department of Health. Jill has published several health assessment reports including: "Turning Point, Colorado's Public Health Improvement Plan, 2001" "Profile of Health Disparities in Colorado, 2001," Profile of Health Disparities in Colorado, 2005" and "Healthy Eagle County 2010, A Blueprint for Improving our Community's Health." Jill is also the Principal of Silver Street Consulting, a community-based research and planning firm, operated from Edwards, Colorado.

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Zulema Flores Smith, Lead Public Health Consultant in the Office of Planning and Partnerships has been working at Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment for seven and a half years. Zulema has worked with State Health Departments in Texas, New Mexico, and local county agency in Missouri before coming to Colorado. Zulema graduated from New Mexico State with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing, and from San Diego State with a Master of Public Health. Prior to moving to Colorado, Zulema worked as a Nurse Consultant for Maternal Child Health program in the New Mexico/Mexico border. She also worked with outpatient mental health clinics in El Paso, Texas. After arriving in Grand Junction, Zulema coordinated the Farmworkers Health Programs in Mesa and Montrose Counties. Being with the Office of Planning and Partnerships will help the Public Health Consultants becoming more knowledgeable about the 2008 PH Act to assist the local agencies.

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